

Gather the wheat into my barn

MATTHEW 13:30





Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Saturday, July 22, 2023 ~ 5:00 pm

Sunday, July 23, 2023 ~ 9:00 am

It is an age-old question: why is there evil in the world? In the parable of the wheat and the weeds Jesus suggests that both grow together until the harvest. With Paul, we long for the day that all creation will be set free from bondage and suffering. Having both weeds and wheat within us, we humbly place our hope in the promises of God, and from the Lord's table we go forth to bear the fruit of justice and mercy.

PRELUDE

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who greets us in this and every season, whose word never fails, whose promise is sure.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of our neighbors. Merciful God, **we confess that we have sinned. We have hurt our community. We have squandered your blessings. We have hoarded your bounty. In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.**

Silence is kept for reflection.

Righteous God, **we confess that we have sinned. We have failed to be honest. We have lacked the courage to speak. We have spoken falsely. In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.**

Silence is kept for reflection.

God is a cup of cold water when we thirst. God offers boundless grace when we fail. Claim the gift of God's mercy: you are freed and forgiven in the name of † Jesus Christ.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG *"We Plow the Fields and Scatter"*

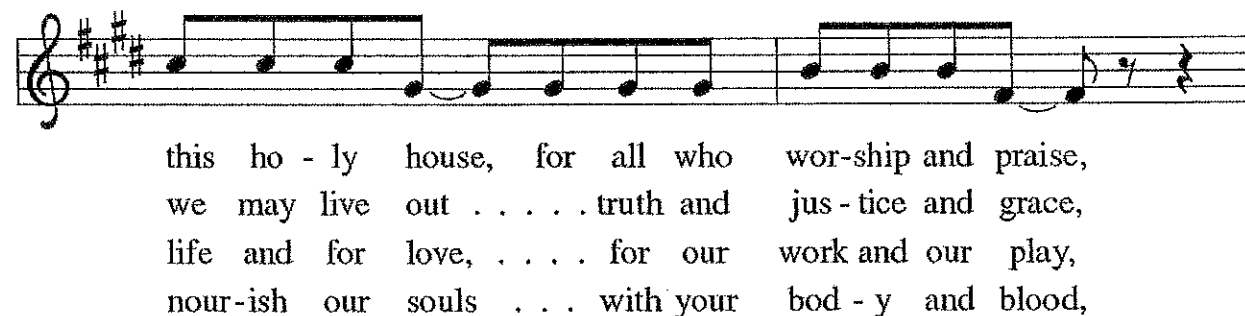
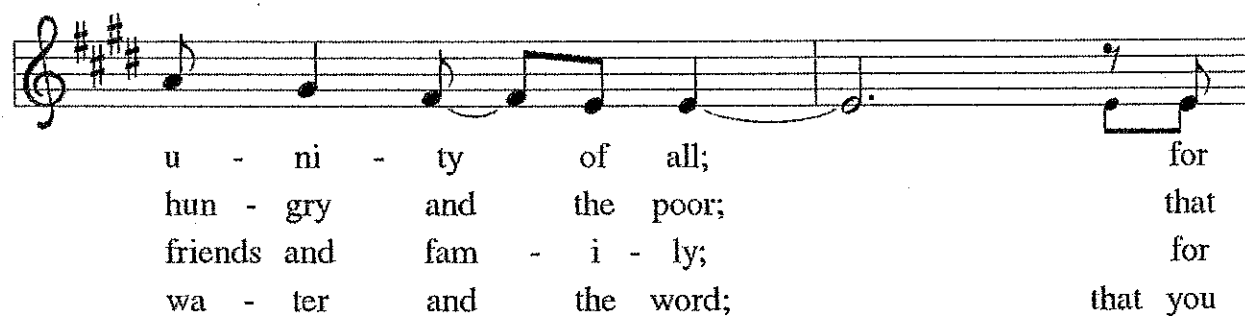
ELW # 681

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

KYRIE



Continues on next page



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Faithful God, most merciful judge, you care for your children with firmness and compassion. By your Spirit nurture us who live in your kingdom, that we may be rooted in the way of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST READING: Isaiah 44:6-8

A reading from Isaiah.

⁶Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel,
and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts:

I am the first and I am the last;
besides me there is no god.

⁷Who is like me? Let them proclaim it,
let them declare and set it forth before me.

Who has announced from of old the things to come?
Let them tell us what is yet to be.

⁸Do not fear, or be afraid;
have I not told you from of old and declared it?
You are my witnesses!

Is there any god besides me?
There is no other rock; I know not one.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 86:11-17

¹¹Teach me your way, O LORD, and I will walk in your truth;
give me an undivided heart to revere your name.

¹²**I will thank you, O Lord my God, with all my heart,
and glorify your name forevermore.**

¹³For great is your love toward me;

you have delivered me from the pit of death.

¹⁴**The arrogant rise up against me, O God, and a band of violent people seeks my life;**

they have not set you before their eyes.

¹⁵But you, O Lord, are gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger, and full of kindness and truth.

¹⁶**Turn to me and have mercy on me;**

give your strength to your servant, and save the child of your handmaid.

¹⁷Show me a sign of your favor, so that those who hate me may see it and be put to shame;

because you, LORD, have helped me and comforted me.

SECOND READING: Romans 8:12-25

A reading from Romans.

¹²So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—¹³for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

¹⁸I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. ¹⁹For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; ²⁰for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²²We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; ²³and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁴[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field;²⁵but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. ²⁶So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. ²⁷And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' ²⁸He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' ²⁹But he replied, 'No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. ³⁰Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.' "

³⁶Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." ³⁷He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; ³⁸the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, ³⁹and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and

the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, ⁴²and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!"

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY *"Come, Ye Thankful People, Come"*

ELW # 693

CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

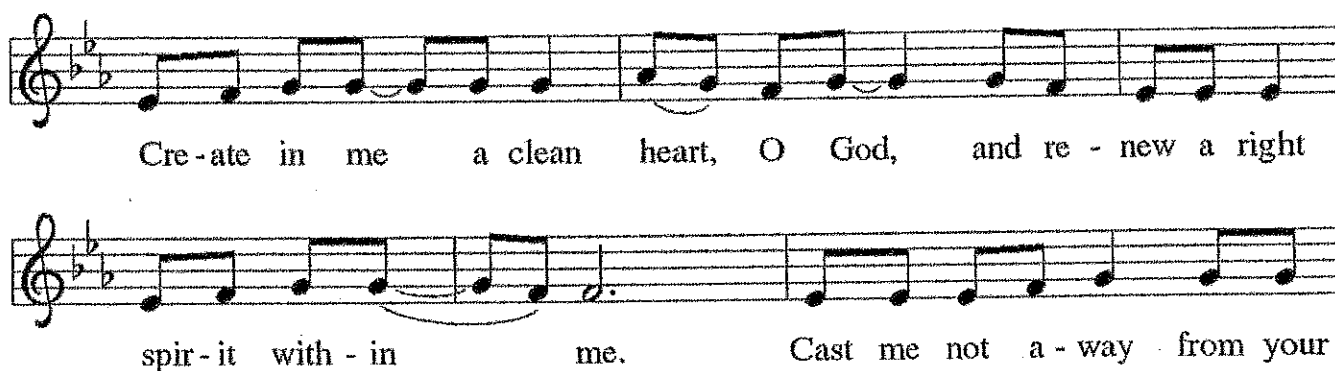
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING

OFFERING SONG



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your

pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me.

Re - store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me

with your free Spir - it. Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God,

and re - new a right spir - it with - in me.

Music: *Liturgy of Joy*, James M. Capers, b. 1948
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OFFERING PRAYER

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

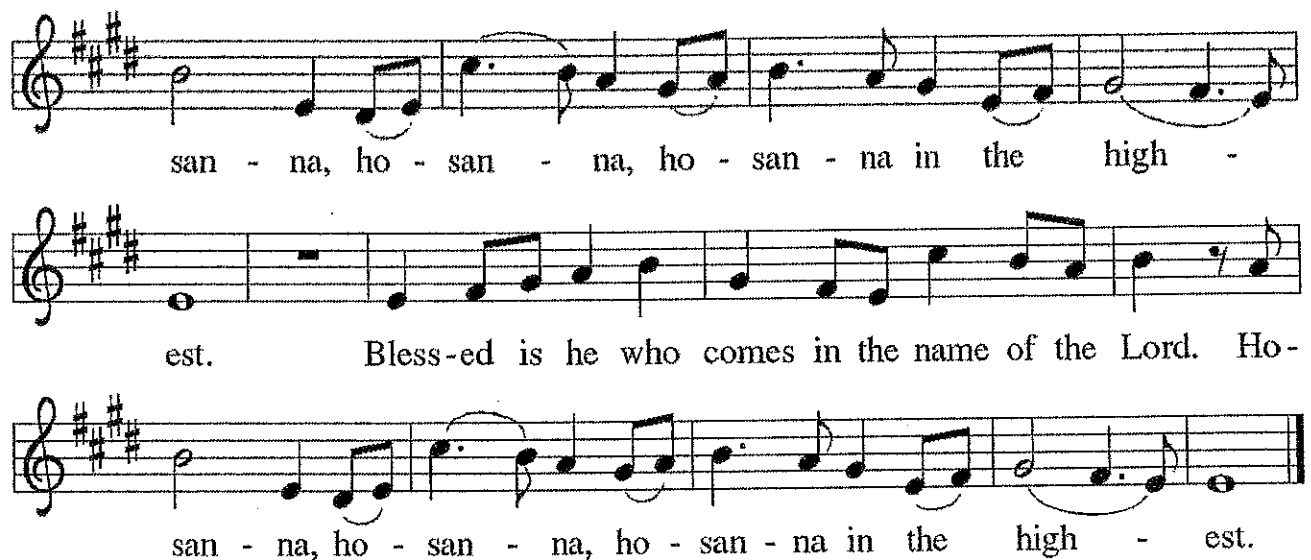
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,

heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -



WORDS OF INSTITUTION

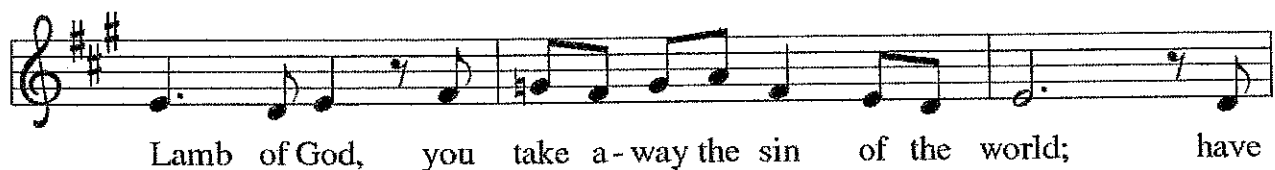
LORD'S PRAYER

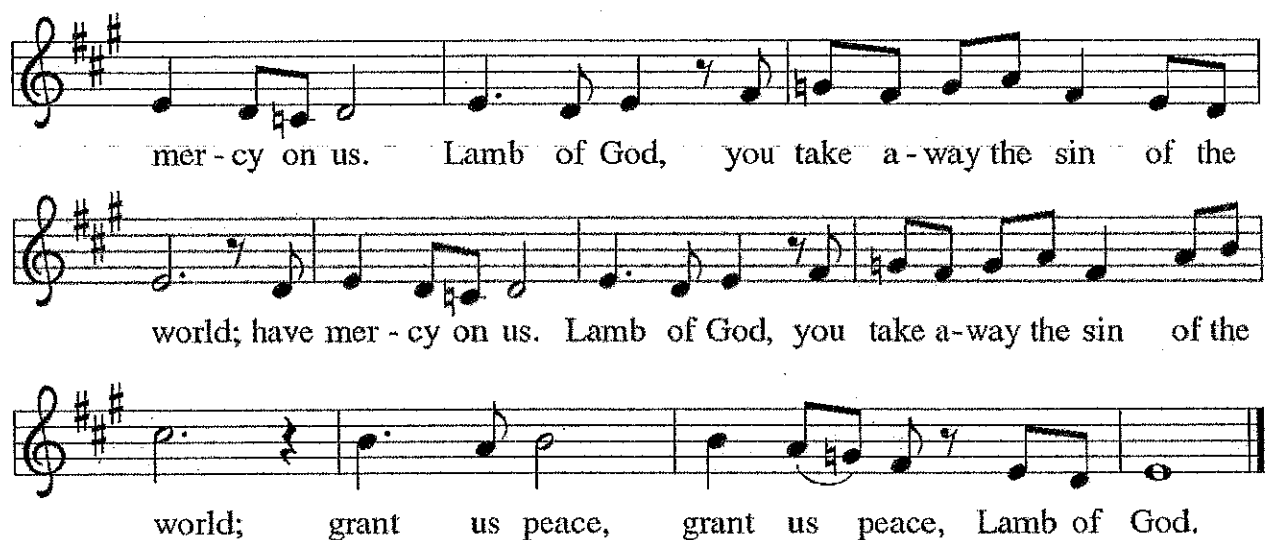
Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS

Believing in the real presence of Christ, we invite all present to participate in the Sacrament of Holy Communion. All who are baptized and believe that Jesus Christ is present in the gifts of bread and wine are welcome at the Lord's table. Indoors, the ushers will direct you to come forward by the center aisle to receive the bread from the pastors. Outdoors, you may come to receive communion whenever you are ready. Both wine and grape juice are available for communion. The grape juice is the darker color in the middle of the tray. Those who do not wish to receive communion and children who are not yet receiving communion may come forward to receive a blessing. There are baskets at the end of the front pews when indoors or near the communion assistant when outdoors where you can deposit your cups as your return to your seat. Those who are worshiping with us online are invited to have bread and wine or juice available for worship, and we will commune you at the end of communion.

COMMUNION SONG





mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
 world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
 world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

COMMUNION HYMN

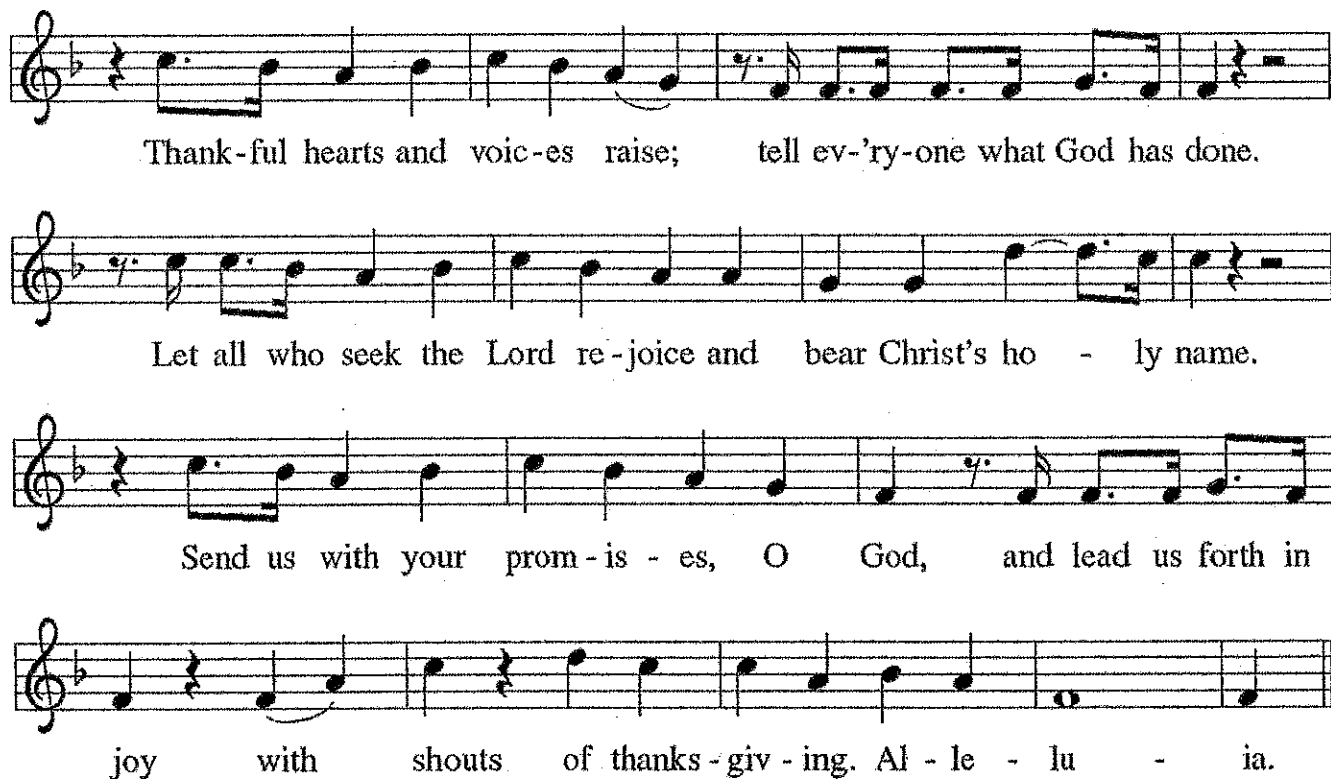
"As the Grains of Wheat"

ELW # 465

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen us and keep us in his grace.
 Amen.

SONG AFTER COMMUNION *"Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise"*



Thank - ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev - 'ry - one what God has done.
 Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.
 Send us with your prom - is - es, O God, and lead us forth in
 joy with shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: *Liturgy of Joy*, James M. Capers, b. 1948

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PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

BLESSING

SENDING SONG

"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

ELW # 631

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the harvest.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO SHARE IN OUR WORSHIP

SATURDAY	5:00 pm Worship Service
Ushers	Mike & Rita Smith
Reader	Ida Weibel
Communion Assistants	Janet Merrick
Counters	Mike & Rita Smith

SUNDAY	9:00 am Worship Service
Ushers	Jim & Donna Gruenhagen
Reader	Neal Becker
Communion Assistants	Donna Gruenhagen
Counters	Carol Marten & Deanna Nielsen

Choir Director	Susan Becker
Organist	Teri Wittkowski & Susan Becker
Jubilation Leader	Neal Becker

A Righteous Harvest

One of the lessons of history is that when humans try to do the weeding, things end badly. Whenever we try to divide the world into good guys and bad guys, people get hurt. Everyone winds up being a bad guy to somebody, and you can do anything to the bad guys. You can lie about them. You can hurt them. You can hurt other people on your way to getting the bad guys, and that's regrettable. But it's okay to sacrifice some of the good guys in order to get the bad guys, right?

But the kingdom of heaven is not like the farmer who pulled up half of the wheat seedlings while going after the weeds. The kingdom of heaven is more like Jesus, who was so unwilling to cause harm to others that he died instead. Instead of pulling up the weeds and casting them into the fire, Jesus went into the fire himself.

Therefore, the harvest is fruitful beyond imagining, because the harvest is Jesus himself! Jesus bears the fruit of righteousness, reconciliation, and peace. He will gather all people into his care, and they will not be troubled by sickness, or violence, or hatred, or death. This will happen, not because Jesus will destroy all enemies, but because Jesus, by his death, will transform enemies into friends.

The weeds and the wheat are still growing in this world. Although Jesus has already done all that is needed for the final harvest, all of us growing here on this earth still need the help of our neighbors. Just as the farmer in the story instructed his servants to care for the wheat until it was time for the harvest, so God calls us to actively work with Jesus to make things better for people right here and right now.

Cover: *Harvesting the Sheaves* by Clausen George. British school, 19th century. Photo copyright © Artepics/age fotostock/Superstock. Used by permission.

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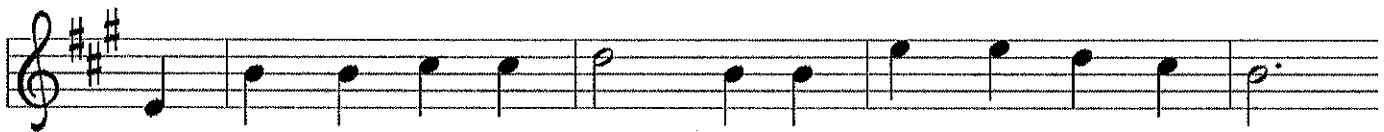
We Plow the Fields and Scatter



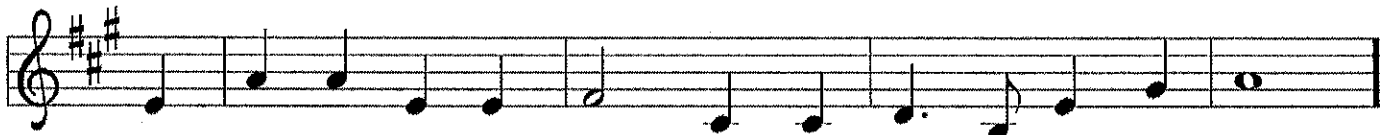
1 We plow the fields and scat - ter the good seed on the land,
 2 You on - ly are the mak - er of all things near and far.
 3 We thank you, our cre - a - tor, for all things bright and good,



but it is fed and wa - tered by God's al - might - y hand,
 You paint the way-side flow - er, you light the eve - ning star.
 the seed-time and the har - vest, our life, our health, our food.

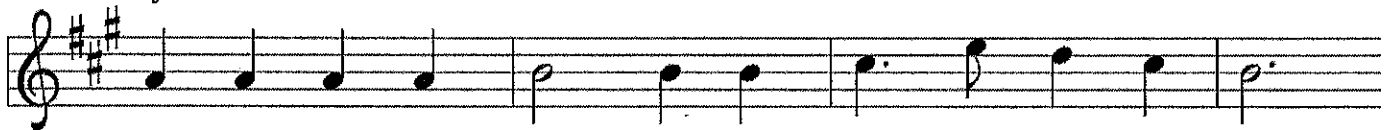


who sends the snow in win - ter, the warmth to swell the grain,
 The winds and waves o - bey you, by you the birds are fed;
 No gifts have we to of - fer for all your love im - parts,



the breez-es and the sun - shine, and soft re - fresh-ing rain.
 much more to us, your chil - dren, you give our dai - ly bread.
 but what you most would trea - sure—our hum - ble, thank-ful hearts.

Refrain

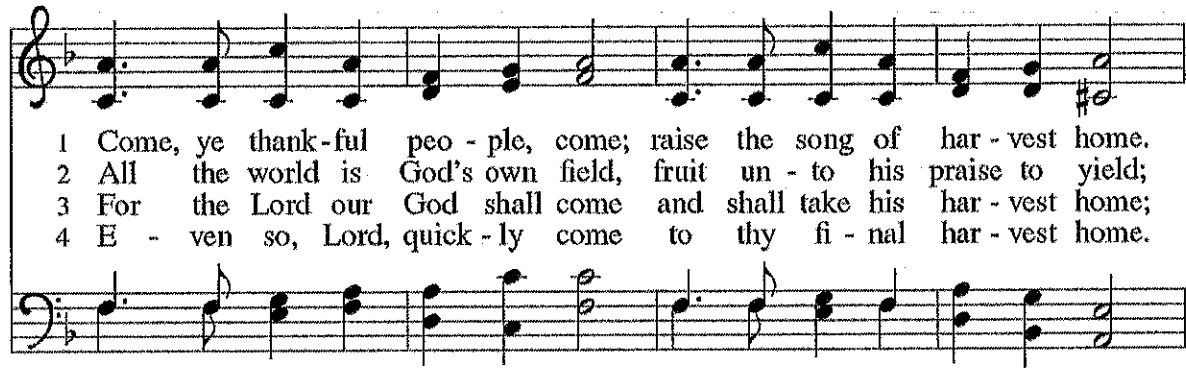


All good gifts a - round us are sent from heav'n a - bove.

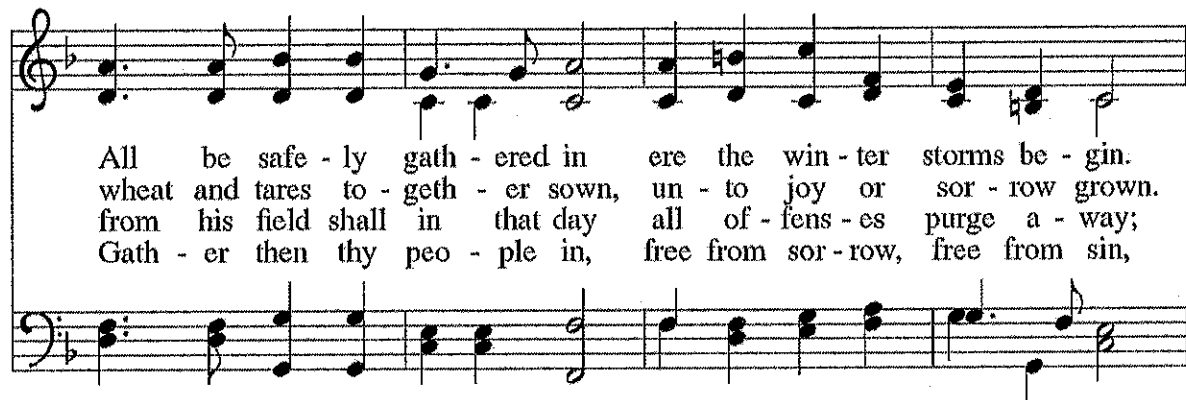


We thank you, Lord, we thank you, Lord, for all your love.

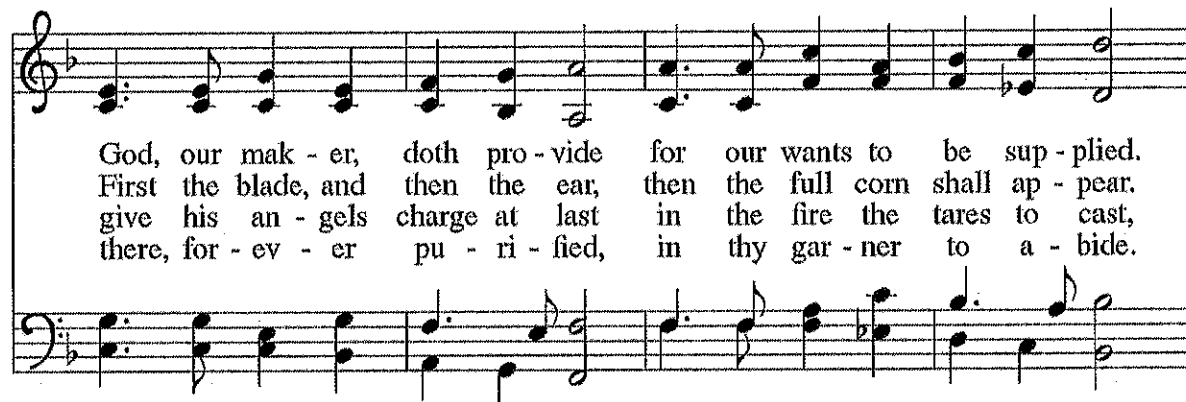
Come, Ye Thankful People, Come



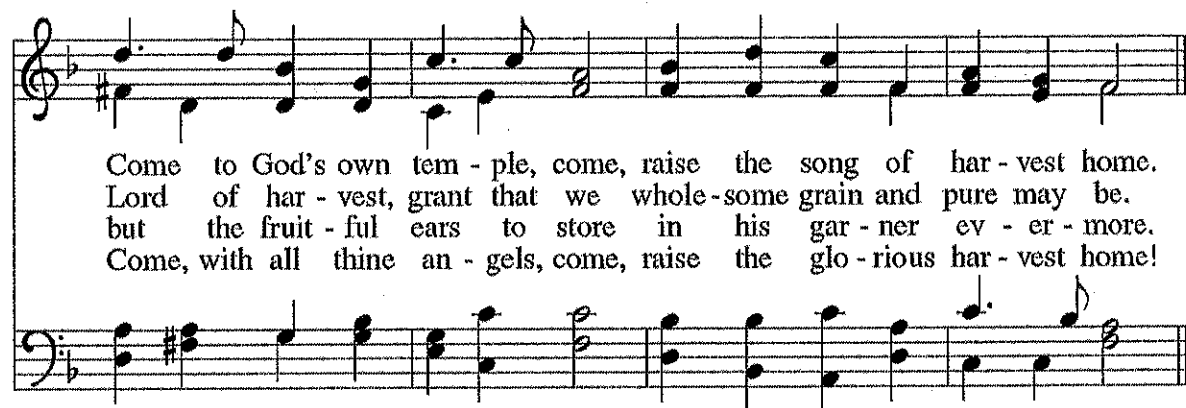
1 Come, ye thank-ful peo - ple, come; raise the song of har - vest home.
 2 All the world is God's own field, fruit un - to his praise to yield;
 3 For the Lord our God shall come and shall take his har - vest home;
 4 E - ven so, Lord, quick - ly come to thy fi - nal har - vest home.



All be safe - ly gath - ered in ere the win - ter storms be - gin.
 wheat and tares to - geth - er sown, un - to joy or sor - row grown.
 from his field shall in that day all of - fens - es purge a - way;
 Gath - er then thy peo - ple in, free from sor - row, free from sin,



God, our mak - er, doth pro - vide for our wants to be sup - plied.
 First the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn shall ap - pear.
 give his an - gels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast,
 there, for - ev - er pu - ri - fied, in thy gar - ner to a - bide.



Come to God's own tem - ple, come, raise the song of har - vest home.
 Lord of har - vest, grant that we whole - some grain and pure may be.
 but the fruit - ful ears to store in his gar - ner ev - er - more.
 Come, with all thine an - gels, come, raise the glo - rious har - vest home!

As the Grains of Wheat

Refrain



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were



gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from



all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.



1 As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst,

2 Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when



may we share the pres-ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

Refrain

Text: Didache, 2nd cent.; Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: AS THE GRAINS, Marty Haugen

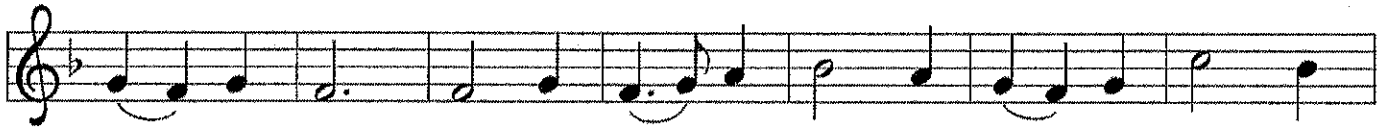
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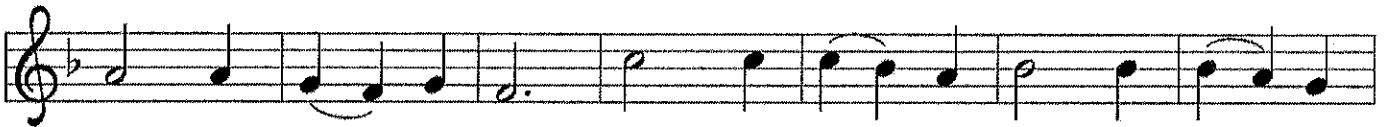
Love Divine, All Loves Excelling



1 Love di-vine, all loves ex-cel-ling, Joy of heav'n, to
 2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy lov-ing Spir-it in-to ev-'ry
 3 Come, Al-might-y, to de-liv-er; let us all thy
 4 Fin-ish then thy new cre-a-tion, pure and spot-less



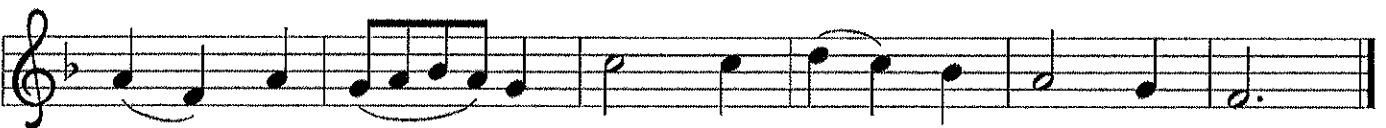
earth come down! Fix in us thy hum-ble dwell-ing, all thy
 trou-bled breast; let us all in thee in-her-it; let us
 life re-ceive; sud-den-ly re-turn, and nev-er, nev-er-
 let us be; let us see thy great sal-va-tion per-fect-



faith-ful mer-cies crown. Je-sus, thou art all com-pas-sion,
 find thy prom-ised rest. Take a-way the love of sin-ning;
 more thy tem-ples leave. Thee we would be al-ways bless-ing,
 ly re-stored in thee! Changed from glo-ry in-to glo-ry,



pure, un-bound-ed love thou art; vis-it us with
 Al-pha and O-me-ga be; end of faith, as
 serve thee as thy hosts a-bove, pray, and praise thee
 till in heav'n we take our place, till we cast our



thy sal-va-tion, en-ter ev-'ry trem-bling heart.
 its be-gin-ning, set our hearts at lib-er-ty.
 with-out ceas-ing, glo-ry in thy per-fect love.
 crowns be-fore thee, lost in won-der, love, and praise!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1811-1887

FAITH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Senior Pastor Carrie La Plante Pastor Heather Geest

Worship: Saturday 5 pm Sunday 9 am

Telephone: (563) 285-4501 Email: faitheldridge@netins.net



GRACE - GIFTED FAITH - LIFTED
CALLED TO SHARE, SEEK AND SERVE CHRIST.

The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
July 22 & 23, 2023

WELCOME TO WORSHIP Today we gather to celebrate God's love and grace as revealed to us through Jesus Christ. For those that might be interested in knowing more about the ministries and activities of the congregation there are some printed materials available for you to take. The materials are located on the counter just inside the east entrance of this building. You can also find more information through the church website at faithlutheraneldridge.com.

CHILDREN are always welcome in worship. Special children's bulletins are available for their use.

VISITOR? CHANGE OF ADDRESS? INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES? HAVE A PRAYER REQUEST? Please feel free to complete the information card located in front of you next to the hymnals and pass the card to the outer aisle during announcements and an usher will pick them up during the call to worship.

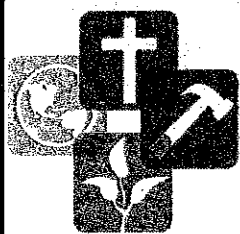


If you are interested in providing altar flowers, there is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex. You may also sign up using the link on our web site, www.faithlutheraneldridge.com



Trusting that God hears our prayers, we keep these people and all who are in need in our prayers.

Ron McFate	Steve Mixdorf	Melissa Alden	Sharon Baker
Sally Puls	Duane Miller	Sue Vogel	Becky Rehn
Jensen Spencer	Henry Storjohann	Andrew Arp	Glen
Ann Kuehl	Dan Anderson	Kim Pierce	Kelly
Madison Russo	Ed Stoltz	Jeanette Myers	Vaughn
Janet Bowman	Jerry Schwien	Bill Lind	Mary Lou
Kathy Stoltz	Judy Knoer	Ed Precht	

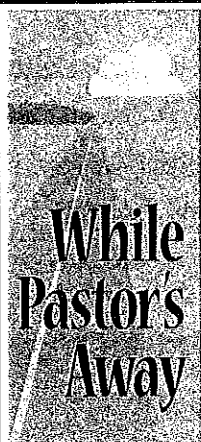


Service Learning Trip

Please hold in your prayers the 20 youth and five adults who will be heading to Albuquerque, New Mexico, on a Service Learning Trip July 22-29: August Bauer, Dylan Bergmann, Reese Crain, Griffin Frank, Mackenzie Gabrielson, Jennie Garner, Sammie Garner, Addison Harms, Carter Harms, Makenzie

Housenga, Grady Kirst, Gehrig Kirst, Abby La Plante, Madelyn La Plante, Collin Lewis, Jacob Link, Kaycee Newman, Katelyn Peck, Everett Schroeder, Ryan Stickler, Mike Garner, Brea Harms, Sue Kirst, Scott La Plante, and Pastor Carrie La Plante. Please pray for safe travels, for opportunities to learn from and with those whom we serve, for growth in faith and relationship with God and one another, and for a better understanding of and appreciation for the world in which we live.

Thank you for all of the support that you have provided to make this trip a reality, and we look forward to sharing our experiences with you on the weekend of August 19 and 20.



Pastor Carrie will be taking the youth on mission trip July 22-29. Pastor Heather will be available for pastoral care during this time.

Pastor Carrie is taking vacation days August 2-5, and Pastor Heather is taking vacation August 7-14.

Please contact the office at 285-4501 for pastoral care during this time, and we will contact the appropriate pastor.

North Scott Clergy Block Party

The North Scott Clergy group will be hosting a block party in Park View on Wednesday, July 26th at the Double Diamonds. They will be grilling hot dogs and hamburgers from 5:30 to 7:00 pm. There will be music and games and other fun. Please join the fun as you are able.



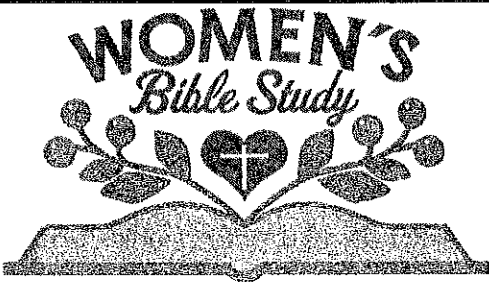


WORSHIP!



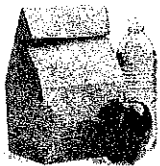
As summer approaches please signup to assist in worship any way that you are able. ***Please consider volunteering and sign up on the bulletin board*** to help our Faith Family heads to complete the worship schedule. Thanks so much.

Nina Looney, Worship & Music Team Leader



Join the Women of Faith for a Summer Bible Study on **Saturday, August 5, from 9 am to 2 pm**. The three session Bible Study is from the Gather magazine titled "Salvation Now." We will look at "Promised Salvation Now - Jesus Brings Wellness," "Tangible Salvation Now - Christians Bringing Wellness," and "Needed Salvation

Now - A World Wanting Wellness." Morning refreshments will be served at 9am. Lunch will be a salad buffet, dessert, iced tea and coffee. For planning purposes, a sign-up is on the bulletin board.



Summer Lunch is in the Bag!
FREE sack lunches served to kids and teens
Tuesdays and Thursdays
June 6 - August 10

Lunch is served
outside from
11:30-12:30

We could use help with drivers and lunch distribution this summer. To sign up to help:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0449aea623a3fe3-volunteer2#/>

Thank you for your help and support!

North Scott Community Feed Our Children Ministry

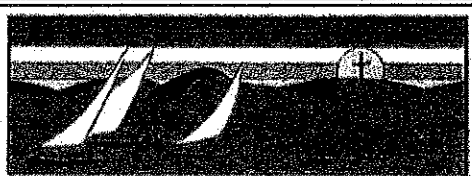


5pm: 75, 9am: 41, Online: 46, Total: 162

THIS WEEK'S GLANCE



Saturday, July 22	Morning 9:00 am 5:00 pm	Youth Mission Trip Departs Private Event in Fellowship Hall Worship
Sunday, July 23	9:00 am 10:00 am	Outdoor Worship Fellowship Hour
Monday, July 24	<i>Office Closed</i>	
Tuesday, July 25	<i>Office Hours 9-12</i> 10:00 am 5:30 pm	Feed Our Children Food Pantry
Wednesday, July 26	<i>Office Hours 9-12</i> 5:30 pm	North Scott Clergy Block Party (Park View)
Thursday, July 27	<i>Office Hours 9-12</i> 9:00 am 10:00 am	Ambassador Folding Feed Our Children
Friday, July 28	<i>Office Hours 8-1</i> 9:30 am	Food Pantry
Saturday, July 29	5:00 pm Evening	Worship Youth Mission Trip Returns
Sunday, July 30	9:00 am 10:00 am	Worship Fellowship Hour



Lutheran Lakeside Camp

We sent 14 youth, 9 adult mission trip volunteers, and 2 Pastors to Lutheran Lakeside Camp July 16-21, for the "Best. Week. Ever."

Campers and missionaries will share their camp highlights with us during worship on July 22 & 23.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM

